



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Brian Sandoval, Governor

Leo M. Drozdoff, P.E., Director

Colleen Cripps, Ph.D., Administrator

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation

Web Posting: 9/14/2013

Date of Public Hearing: 10/14/2013

Deadline for Comment: 10/17/2013

**Lucerne Project
WPC Permit No. NEV2000109
Comstock Mining LLC**

The Administrator of the Division of Environmental Protection (Division) gives notice that due to a significant degree of public interest in the proposed **Lucerne Project** Water Pollution Control Permit NEV2000109 (Permit) major modification, a hearing has been scheduled in accordance with NAC 445A.404 to gather additional input on issues related to the proposed modification. The project, a mining and beneficiation facility, has been permitted since 2001. The Applicant for modification of the Permit is:

**Comstock Mining LLC
P.O. Box 1118
Virginia City, NV 89440**

The facility is located on public and private land in Storey County, within Sections 5, 6, 7, and 8, T 16 N, R 21 E, MDB&M, approximately 2 miles west of the town of Gold Hill.

The project consists of open pit mining with heap and vat leach beneficiation, Merrill-Crowe separation of precious metals, process and event ponds, production and monitoring wells. The major modification proposes an increase of the maximum permitted production rate to 4,380,000 tons of ore per year, expansion of the heap leach pad approximately 600 feet to the north to increase the total area by approximately 550,000 square feet, rebuilding of the existing stormwater pond to be double-lined with leak detection, the addition of another double-lined event pond, and the construction of stormwater diversion ditches along the north edge of the leach pad. Process components are required to be designed, constructed, operated, and closed without any discharge or release in excess of those standards established in regulation except for meteorological events which exceed the design storm event.

The Administrator is constrained to either issue the modified Permit or to deny the application. The Administrator has made the tentative decision to issue the modified Permit.

The Permit will not be renewed as part of the major modification, therefore, the Division is constrained to only consider comments regarding the proposed permit modification.

The public hearing is scheduled for 14 October 2013 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM in the PEBP Board Room, 901 S. Stewart St., Carson City, Nevada, first floor. The Division may set a five-minute limit for oral statements based upon the number of people in attendance who would like to comment. Hand-delivered written comments will also be accepted at the hearing.

All comments, objections, or requests received during the public hearing will be considered in the final determination regarding the Permit. In addition, the deadline for submittal of written comments pursuant to the Notice of Proposed Action of 8 September 2013 will be extended to 5:00 PM on 17 October 2013.

The draft Permit and all application documents are on file at the Division and are available for public inspection and copying pursuant to NRS 445A.665. For more information, contact Paul Eckert at (775) 687-9401 or visit the Division website at <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/bmrr01.htm>.